GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Services – Registration & Stamps Department – Ante date stamps scandal - allegations against Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) and certain registration officials of Zone-II and Zone-III – disciplinary proceedings initiated – Written Statement of Defence submitted – Regular Enquiry conducted – Report submitted – Show cause notice Issued – Representation received – Punishment of 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/- imposed - Orders in WP (AT) No.105 of 2021- Modification of penalty as 20% cut in pension for a period of Five (5) years besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/- – Orders – Issued.

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REVENUE (VIGILIANCE-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 1375 **Dated: 11-11-2025**

Read the following:

1. DIG, R&S (MV), O/o the C&IG, R&S, AP., Hyd., (Preliminary Enuqiry Officer) Lr.No.29788/Enqy/95, dt:21-4-1997.
2. C&IG, R&S, AP., Hyd., Procs.No.Vig.2/25922/1995, dt:17-4-2010.
3. Govt., Memo.No.1454/Vig.VI(1)/2010-8, dt:31-5-2010.
4. Enquiry Report of DIG, R&S, Guntur (REO) Lr.No.A1/132/2010-3, dt:13-3-2012.
5. Govt., Memo.No.1454/Vig.VI(1)/2010-44, dt:5-12-2013.
6. Representation of charged officer Sri B.V.Ratnam former SR (Retd) dt:29-1-2014.
7. Govt., Lr.No.1454/Vig.II(1)/2010-60, dt:31-7-2015.
8. APPSC Lr.No.779/DC&C/2/2015, dt:7-10-2015.
9. G.O.Rt.Nos.1170, Revenue (Vig.II) Department, dt:19-11-2015.
10. Orders from Hon'ble High Court in WP (AT) No.105 of 2021, dated 01.05.2025 filed by Smt. B.Sudarsanamma, w/o Late Sri B.V.Ratnam, former SR (Retd. & expired on 02-01-2016).

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Where as in the reference 1st read above, it has been brought to the notice of Government that certain officials of Registration & Stamps Department in Zone-II & Zone-III were involved in ante dated stamps scandal in connection with the registration of documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without proper verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer.

2. And whereas, on the directions of Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad, the Preliminary Enquiry Officer i.e., the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps (Market Value), Office of the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad had submitted the report stating that certain registration officials have registered documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without proper verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer in the reference 1st read above.

3. Whereas, on the findings of Preliminary Enquiry Officer, the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad has framed the following charges against Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) among certain other Registration officials.

Charge-I:

That the said Sri B.V.Ratnam while working as JSR-II, RO (OB), Guntur during the period from 1-7-1994 to 5-3-1996 registered Document Nos.4856, 5059, 5405,6740,5194, 5317,5374, 4996,6705, 6722, 6754, 6755, 6515, 5373, 4895, 4861, 5429, 5395, 5306, 5382, 5645, 6739, 5666, 5667, 5511, 5514, 5538, 6302, 6503, 6504, 6507, 6513, 4926, 5001, 5009,

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6200, 6201, 5331, 5334, 5428, 5301, 5276, 343, 344, 4996, 5645, 6077, 6649, 6650, 6740, 6763,5383,6528,6515,4926, 6764 of 1995 without verifying the date of purchase of stamps sold by Sri A.Ramachandra Rao, Stamp Vendor, Sri B.B.Reddy, Stamp vendor, Sri A. Sudhakara Reddy, S.M.M.Ahmed, Sri K.Rama Rao, Sri Pardhasaradhi, Sri Ch.Cowdeswara Rao, Sri K.Srinivasa Rao, Sri Ch.Suryanarayana, Stamp Vendors, Guntur as required in IG of R&S, AP., Hyd., instructions vide Memo.No.MV1/5000/1992, dt:26-7-1993 and 26-8- 1993. In the preliminary enquiry, it was prima facie established that the stamp vendors are sold the stamps used for the above documents with ante date to facilitate the parties to draft documents with ante dates in order to evade payment of stamp duty on the revised market value which have come to force w.e.f 1-4-1995. On account of selling stamps with ante dates Sri B.V.Ratnam registering the documents without verifying the date of selling of stamps, the Govt., sustained a loss of Revenue of Rs.7,60,962/-.

Charge-II :

That during the aforesaid period and while functioning the aforesaid office, the said Sri B.V.Ratnam, JSR-II, admitted and registered the document Nos.3139,3155, 3722,4084, 4458, 4545 to 4548, 4613, 4632, 4624, 4626, 4625, 4682, 4782 to 4785, 5395, 6426, 6440, 6442, 6775, 6780, 6499 of 1995 affixed with Special Adhesive stamps sold by the stamp vendors who are not authorized to draw and vend the special adhesive stamps and who are not proper officers under Rule 9 of AP Stamp Rules. In the preliminary enquiry, it was prima facie established that the stamp vendors have sold the stamps used for above documents with ante date to facilitate the parties to draft document with ante date in order to evade payment of stamp duty on the revised market values which come into force w.e.f 1-4-1995. On account of selling stamps with ante dates Sri B.V.Ratanm, registering the documents without verifying the date of selling of stamps, Government sustained a loss of Revenue of Rs.4,24,926/-.

Charge-III:

That during the aforesaid period and while working at aforesaid office, the said Sri B.V.Ratnam, JSR-II, Registered the Document Nos.4612,4781,4597,4613,4952,4960,4978,4533,4954,4962,4957,4961,4955,4963,4959, 4958,4964,4787,4977,4982 of 1995 which are drawn up partly with special adhesive stamps and partly with non-judicial stamps which are all ante dated. In the preliminary enquiry, it was prima facie established that the stamp vendors have sold the stamps used for the above documents with ante date to facilitate the parties to draft documents with ante dates in order to evade payment of stamp duty on the revised market values which have come into force w.e.f 1-4-1995; on account of selling stamps with ante dates and Sri B.V.Ratnam registering the documents without verifying the date of selling of stamps, Government sustained a loss of Revenue of Rs.2,32,262/-.

4. After receipt of Written Statement of Defence of Sri B.V Ratnam, the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad had appointed the Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Guntur as Regular Enquiry Officer in the matter in the reference 2nd read above. In the reference 4th read above, the Regular Enquiry Officer has submitted the report holding the charges held proved against Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) among certain others. The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Guntur i.e., Inquiring Authority has forwarded the Regular Enquiry Officer report to Government for taking further action in the matter under Rule 9 of Andhra Pradesh Revised Pension Rules, 1980.

5. Whereas, Government after examining the Regular Enquiry Officer report in the reference 4th read above, and after taking consideration of all the facts including

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heavy loss caused to State exchequer have provisionally decided to impose a punishment of 100% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss i.e., Rs.7,60,962/- against Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub-Registrar (Retired) for the charge held proved among certain others. Accordingly, a Show Cause Notice has been issued in the reference 5th read above, with a direction to show cause as to why the proposed punishment should not be imposed against him.

6. In the reference 6th read above, the Charged Officer Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) has submitted representation stating mainly among others that the main point in the present issue is the tampering of stamp vendors registers and not the admission of documents and stated that as per the instructions of Commissioner & Inspector General Memo.No.MV1/5000/92, dt:26-7-1993, the District Registrar should keep the registers in his personal custody to avoid tampering the said registers and stated that the same have been tampered due to negligence of District Registrar, Guntur and also stated that no Sub Registrar can expect that the said registers will be tampered. He has further stated that he had verified the Document writer receipt in terms of instructions of Inspector General, Registration & Stamps Procgs No.MV1/5000/92, dated 26-07-1993 and admitted for registration since the District Registrar has not returned the Document Writers registers in time and stated that after noticing the instructions of C&IG, R&S vide Procgs No.GS-01/13325/95, dated 06-05-1995, he has stated that he kept such type of documents in pending until the authorized officer verifies the stamps as per clause (iv) of said instructions and stated that the loss of revenue taken place, because the stamp vendors registers were tampered while they were under personal custody of District Registrar. Therefore, he has requested the Government to delete him from the charge.

7. Government have examined the matter in light of the Regular Enquiry Officer report taking into consideration of the representation of the Charged Officer Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) have decided to reduce the proposed punishment of 100% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/- to 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/- against Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired). The Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission have also agreed with the proposal of the department in the reference 8th read above.

8. Accordingly, Government have imposed a punishment of 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/- against the Charged Officer Sri B.V.Ratnam, former Sub Registrar (Retired) for registering documents executed on the stamps sold with ante dates without verification and thereby caused loss of Revenue to the State exchequer vide reference 9th read above.

9. Aggrieved by the above, Smt. B.Sudarsanamma, w/o Late Sri B.V.Ratnam had filed OA.No.1351/2016 in APAT and same was transferred to Hon'ble High Court after abolition of APAT. Subsequently, the Hon'ble High Court has passed orders in WP (AT) No.105 of 2021, dated 01.05.2025 and the order reads as follows:

> *9. Insofar as punishment is concerned, initially 100% cut in pension and recovery of amount was proposed, but upon considering the request of the charged officer on humanitarian grounds, the punishment was reduced to 20% permanent cut while maintaining the recovery of the amount. Since the amount of loss to the government was rightly ordered to be recovered, the same does not require interference. Imposition of penalty of 20% cut permanently is disproportionately high as the amount of loss to the government was ordered to be recovered. As such, the same can be limited to a period of five (5) years from the date of retirement of the charged officer. The rest of the order impugned remains intact.*
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> *10. Accordingly, the writ petition is allowed.*

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10. In compliance with the orders of the Hon'ble High Court in WP (AT) No.105 of 2021, and upon thorough examination of the entire matter, the Government decided to revise the penalty imposed on Sri B.V.Ratnam, former SR (Retd). Accordingly, the earlier penalty of a 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/- is hereby modified as to 20% cut in pension for a period of five (5) years besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/-.

11. Accordingly, Government hereby orders the modification of the penalty imposed on Sri B.V.Ratnam, former SR (Retd), revising it from a 20% cut in pension permanently besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/- to a 20% cut in pension for a period of five (5) years besides recovery of loss of Rs.7,60,962/-.

12. The Commissioner and Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Tadepalli shall take necessary further action in the matter, accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G JAYALAKSHMI
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Commissioner and Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh, Tadepalli.
The Legal Heir of Sri B.V.Ratnam, former SR (Retd) (through the Commissioner & Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Andhra Pradesh., Tadepalli with a request to serve the order and furnish the served copy with dated acknowledgement to Government for record).
Copy to:
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, Andhra Pradesh Vigilance Commission, AP Secretariat.
The Secretary, Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission, Vijayawada.
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Vijayawada / Guntur.
The Deputy Inspector General, Registration & Stamps, Eluru.
The Central Bureau, Crime Investigation Department, Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri.
SF/SC.

//FORWARDED::BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER